



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GAMBLING COMMISSION

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Commission Position Statement – Substitute House Bill 2776

February 23, 2004

At its February 12 meeting, the Washington State Gambling Commission discussed Substitute House Bill 2776. This bill would remove funds from the Gambling Commission's revolving account to fund a problem gambling treatment program in the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). The Commission members voted to support the concept of this legislation, but also to express their concerns regarding the proposed funding source.

The Gambling Commission has long supported efforts to deal with problem gambling. However, the funding source proposed in the bill causes us significant concerns. Support of the treatment program at DSHS would come from fees which are collected from our licensees and from the Indian tribes for the purpose of supporting our regulatory programs. This would have a negative impact on our ability to fully accomplish the primary mission of the agency, the regulation and control of gambling. If the legislature wants the Gambling Commission to fund a problem gambling treatment program, we would request that language be included in the bill authorizing the Commission to impose an additional separate licensee fee to support this new program.

